

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #79-50 Building Date: 1889
Building Name: Wyvill House
Location: 4102 Old Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description

The Wyvill House is a two-and-one-half-story frame gable-roofed dwelling. It is covered with German siding painted white, with decorative shingle at the gable ends. The windows are generally 2/2 long double-hung-sash. The roof is covered with green asphalt shingle and has deeply overhanging eaves. There are three corbelled brick chimneys. Entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay main west facade; this central bay projects from the facade, forming a 2-1/2 story cross-gabled porch tower. The door has a classical surround, with pilasters framing the doorway, and a dentilled frieze above the narrow, single-light transom. The third level of the porch tower is sided with decorative fish-scale shingles. The raking cornices are embellished with decorative perforated barge boards painted dark green. Across the west facade is a one-story shed-roofed porch which has a central pediment decorated with applied stick-style branches; its raking cornices are embellished with the same bargeboards as the tower. The north and south gable ends of the house are sided at loft level with saw-tooth shingles, thus forming a decorative pediment over the second-story windows. The same bargeboards decorate the raking cornices. There are additions on the north, east and south facades of the house.

Significance

The Wyvill House is one of several dwellings in the Marlboro area which were built by members of the Wyvill family of carpenters and builders. It is perhaps the best example in the County of a once popular Victorian vernacular house style, i.e., with the projecting central bay or "porch tower". The house was built in 1889 by John C. Wyvill for Miss Catherine Hill. The new house was a substantial example of Victorian vernacular architecture, with its projecting porch tower and Queen Anne decorative elements. It stood on a hill to the east of and facing the older Bleak Hill mansion which had been the home of Richard S. Hill. In 1927 the house and part of the acreage were purchased by Samuel Wyvill, grandson of its builder. At this time, he enlarged the house by several additions, including the one-story extension of the south front parlor, and the two-story addition inside the southeast corner of the ell. The Wyvill house is an important example of a substantial Victorian vernacular dwelling with Queen Anne decorative elements. It is also important as an example of the work of a prolific local builder, John C. Wyvill. It is presently the home of one of his descendants.

Acreage: 12.5 acres

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Wyvill House

and/or common Wyvill House

2. Location

street & number 4102 Old Crain Highway ___ not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Fred S. Wyvill

street & number 4102 Old Crain Highway telephone no.: 627-4152

city, town Upper Marlboro state and zip code MD 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber #2539

street & number Main Street folio 289

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #79- 50

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Wyvill House is a two-and-one-half-story frame gable-roofed dwelling, handsomely sited on a prominent knoll. The house faces west towards the old road between Upper Marlboro and Queen Anne, and is approached by a drive which forms a circle in front of the house. The main block of the house is basically square, three bays by two bays, expanded by one-story additions on north and south, and a two-story addition on the east.

The building is covered with German siding painted white, with decorative shingle at the gable ends. The windows are generally 2/2 long double-hung-sash; they have plain board surrounds and no shutters. The house rests on a brick foundation. The roof is covered with green asphalt shingle and has deeply overhanging eaves. There are three corbelled brick chimneys, two in the main block, placed symmetrically on the east plane of the roof, and one at the east gable end of the (rear) kitchen wing.

Entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay main west facade; this central bay projects from the facade, forming a 2-1/2 story cross-gabled porch tower. The door has a classical surround, with pilasters framing the doorway, a dentilled frieze above the narrow, single-light transom, and crown molding above the frieze. Above the doorway at second level is a double window centered in the porch tower, and above that a small square window, 8/2, at loft level. The third level of the porch tower is sided with decorative fish-scale shingles. The raking cornices of the porch tower are embellished with decorative perforated barge boards painted dark green.

Across the main (west) facade is a one-story shed-roofed porch which originally wrapped part way around the north and south facades. The porch has a pedimented central projection sheltering the main entrance; the pediment is decorated with applied stick-style branches, and its raking cornices are embellished with the same bargeboards as the tower. The porch is supported by square chamfered posts, and has a railing with plain balusters. It rests on brick piers infilled with lattice, and is approached by a flight of five steps.

The two-bay-wide north and south gable ends are sided at loft level with saw-tooth shingles, thus forming a decorative pediment over the second-story windows. The same bargeboards decorate the raking cornices.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#79- 50

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
Specific dates	1889	Builder/Architect	John C. Wyvill	

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Wyvill House is one of several dwellings in the Marlboro area which were built by members of the Wyvill family of carpenters and builders. It is perhaps the best example in the County of a once popular Victorian vernacular house style, i.e., with the projecting central bay or "porch tower".

The house was built in 1889 by John C. Wyvill, a carpenter who came to Prince George's County from northwest Maryland after the Civil War.¹ (His four sons continued the building tradition, constructing, for example, the two St. Mary's Catholic churches in Upper Marlboro and Piscataway.²) It was built for Miss Catherine Hill on her allotment of her father's Bleak Hill estate. The new house was a substantial example of Victorian vernacular architecture, with its projecting porch tower and Queen Anne decorative elements. It stood on a hill to the east of and facing the older (1850's) Bleak Hill mansion which had been the home of Richard S. Hill.³

In 1905, Catherine Hill sold her house and circa 18 acres to the Owens family, and in 1910 it passed to M. Hampton Magruder. In 1927 the house and part of the acreage were purchased by Samuel Wyvill, grandson of its builder. At this time, he enlarged the house by several additions, including the one-story extension of the south front parlor, and the two-story addition inside the southeast corner of the ell.⁴

The Wyvill house is an important example of a substantial Victorian vernacular dwelling with Queen Anne decorative elements. It is also important as an example of the work of a prolific local builder, John C. Wyvill. It is presently the home of one of his descendants.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No P.G. #79- 50

Cf. Notes, Item #8

Cf. Chain of title

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 12.5 acres Tax map #93, parcel 37Quadrangle name Bristol, section D

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historianorganization Historic Preservation Commissiondate December 1985street & number c/o County Planning, MNCPPCtelephone 952-3521city or town Upper Marlboro,state MD 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

#7. Continued

Interior plan of the main block is central stairhall, flanked by large parlors in the front, and small parlor and kitchen space in the rear. Each front parlor was warmed by a fireplace in its east (interior) wall, served by the large corbelled brick chimneys in the east plane of the roof. Only one mantel remains, in the north front parlor; it is of dark stone with engaged columns flanking the fireplace opening.

The house was originally L-shaped, with a one-bay-wide two-story gable-roofed kitchen wing extending to the east, flush with the north facade. The kitchen wing has an interior corbelled brick chimney at its (rear) east gable end. The interior corner formed by the ell has been filled in by a two-story addition, which enlarges the rear parlor. There are three other (one-story shed-roof) additions: a one-bay-by-one-bay addition on the south gable end enlarges the south front parlor; the enclosing of part of the porch on the north facade forms an expansion of the kitchen wing; and an enclosed sun porch runs across the rear (east) facade.

Directly behind the house (to the east) is a small gable-roofed outbuilding (meat house). It is covered partly with German siding and partly with plain boards. Entrance is in its north facade. Its foundation is poured concrete.

To the northeast is a small gable-roofed stable (probably contemporary with the house) with a central cross-gable on its main west facade; it has been nearly doubled in length by an addition to the south.

There are two (twentieth century) barns to the north and northeast.

#8 (Continued)

Notes

- 1 Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1880's, interview with present owner, November 1985.
- 2 cf. Prince George's County Inventory files #79-44, #84-10.
- 3 cf. Prince George's County Inventory files #79-6; Equity #1684.
- 4 cf. Chain of Title; interview with owner.

Chain of Title

Wyvill House
P.G. #79-50

#2539:289
23 March 1961
Deed

Samuel A. Wyvill, widower, to Frederick S. Wyvill,
12-1/2 or 13 acres of land, same acquired by
#389:47.

#389:47
28 July 1932
Deed

Aimee H. Brooke to Samuel A. and Barbara Wyvill,
12-1/2 or 13 acres, same land recorded immediately
prior.

#389:46
28 July 1932
Deed

Samuel A. Wyvill et ux to Aimee H. Brooke, 12-1/2
or 13 acres beginning where land abuts lane to
property of Susan E. Hall, then east with fence to
post at entrance to property of Bruce Buck, then
north with line between Buck and Samuel Wyvill,
following the branch to the point where stood
tenant house occupied by Benjamin Sprigg, then with
fence west with road from old Lodge farm to public
road from Marlboro to Queen Anne, then with said
road to the beginning. Same land acquired by
Wyvill by #292:240.

#292:240
31 May 1927
Deed

M. Hampton and Mettie Magruder to Samuel A. Wyvill,
12-1/2 or 13 acres, land acquired by #67:26, except
portion north of fence which runs from the branch
at Benjamin Sprigg's tenant house, and north of the
road to Lodge farm.

#67:26
19 July 1910
Deed

Eleanor Garner Owens and George French Owens of
Prince George's, to M. Hampton Magruder, 18 to 20
acres, same land obtained by Catherine S. Hill in
subdivision of land of her father's property (lot
#3 of Division C of Bleak Hill, 137.82 acres) and
conveyed by #30:30.

#30:250
19 May 1906
Deed

George French Owens to his wife Eleanor Garner
Owens, 18 to 20 acres.

#30:30
29 Dec. 1905
Deed

Catherine S. Hill to George French Owens, part of
the land which she received from the division of
her father's real estate, Lot #3 of Division C of
Bleak Hill, by Equity #1684, except 119 acres sold
to M. Bowling, leaving 18-20 acres to be conveyed.

#1684
1887
Equity

Division of real estate of Richard S. Hill; to
daughter Catherine S. Hill is allotted Lot #3,
137.82 acres (on east side of Marlboro-Queen Anne
Road) of Division C of Bleak Hill.

U.S. RTE. 301

R-A

JOHN M. MYERS
5923/214
43.09A
P.8

JACK QUEEN
5413/054
4.50 A. P.87

PETER W. CONNELL TRS.
5572/279
26.50A.
P.13

JOSEPHINE
HALL
ADM.13775
P.42

O-S

PAUL F. SUMMERS
724-5
55.86A.
P.35

PAUL P. TUCKER
4837/213
9.17A.
P.164

FRED WYVILLE
2539-289
12.50 A.
P.37

PG 79-50

GEORGE R. REMBOLD
4803/698
57.71A.
P.40

100 A.
P.4
P.172
P.39

O-S

FRANCIS M. HALL, JR.
5840/790
125.97 A.
P.45

CHARLES
C. HALL
5175/295
4.03 A.
P.3

RICHARD F. VIRGIN
6072/547

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P.98
P.54
1.44A.
P.10
JAS. E. BUTLER
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5.01A. P.33

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P.G. #79-50

Wyvill House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
November 1985
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #79-50

Wyvill House

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

November 1985

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #79-50

Wyvill House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
November 1985
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #79-50

Wyvill House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
November 1985
North elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #79-50

Wyvill House

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

November 1985

West detail

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD